



# MEDIA RELEASE

## ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 3, 2023

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### **ERIE COUNTY RECEIVES OVER \$280,000 FOR COASTAL PROJECTS FROM DEP COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANTS**

**ERIE, PA** – Pennsylvania's Coastal Resources Management Program has awarded Erie County over \$280,000 for coastal projects. The grants, which are aimed at protecting and restoring the Lake Erie Coastal Zone, will be used toward projects that will benefit this critical habitat and ecosystem.

Coastal zones are the area where land meets the coast and include both coastal waters and adjacent shorelands and are under increasing pressure from development, erosion, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Coastal Zone Grants are awarded to projects related to fisheries, wetlands, stormwater management improvements, recreation, public education, coastal hazards such as bluff recession, and other areas. Grants may also be awarded to other projects in the watershed that have an impact on coastal waters. The following is a list of the awarded 2022 CRM projects in Erie County:

- Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development – \$81,000 for coordination and technical assistance with Lake Erie coastal zone grantees, municipalities and residents.
- City of Erie - \$9,006 to engage the public to increase awareness about watersheds, stormwater, the coastal zone area and to provide resources for proper automotive chemical disposal and recycling.
- Regional Science Consortium - \$60,000 to research the occurrence of HAB cyanotoxins along the PA Coastline of Lake Erie.
- The Pennsylvania State University - \$47,802 to create and install a set of FUNctional Art recycling bins with the goal of reducing litter items and non-point source pollution.
- Erie Bird Observatory - \$33,724 to develop further understanding of migratory land bird movements and the importance of birds to the Lake Erie Coastal Zone.

- Regional Science Consortium – \$44,345 to support preserving historic sites and understanding a structure for fish habitat.
- Erie County Conservation District – \$4,200 for their summer 2023 Erie Conservation Explore Camp focusing on environmental topics that support conservation and preservation.

Funded primarily by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the grants are administered by DEP's Coastal Resources Management Program. Since federal approval of the DEP Coastal Resources Management Program in 1980, the program has provided more than \$50 million in funding for coastal zone projects. For more information on awarded grants or on how to apply to this program, please contact Joy Fronzoli, Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development, at 814-451-7332 or [jfronzoli@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:jfronzoli@eriecountypa.gov)

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